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MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

# SPIDER-MAN® AND THE BLACK WIDOW™

WHEN SLAYS  
THE SILVER  
SAMURAI!

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Cochran



Stan Lee PRESENTS: **SPIDEY** AND THE **BLACK WIDOW** == TOGETHER!™

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AUTHOR ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

# When slays the SILVER SAMURAI!

'TIS THE MONTH AFTER CHRISTMAS -- AND THINGS ARE LOOKING UP IN THE WORLD. SOMEHOW, THE YULE-TIDE SPIRIT HAS CARRIED OVER INTO THE NEW YEAR. PEOPLE ARE SMILING "HULLO" IN THE STREETS AND, ALL OF A SUDDEN, NEW YORK HAS BECOME A BEAUTIFUL CITY ONCE MORE.



OF COURSE, FOR SOME, PEACE DOES HAVE ITS DRAW-BACKS.

HO-HUM... AND ANOTHER SLOW, BORING PATROL BITES THE DUST.

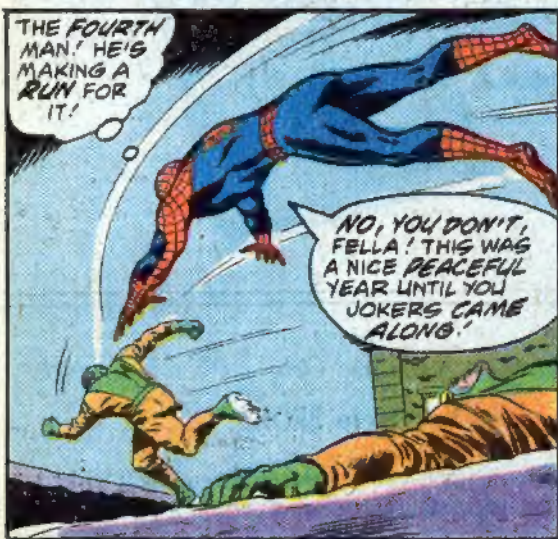
YOU MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME AND CRACK THE TEXTBOOKS, PARKER. THE WAY THE CRIME RATE'S BEEN DROPPING LATELY, YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME.

BITE YOUR TONGUE, WALL-CRAWLER BECAUSE IN ABOUT FIVE SECONDS...













INCREDIBLE, SPIDER-MAN. MY APPROACH WAS AS SILENT AS DEATH ITSELF, YET, STILL YOU HEARD ME.

**BRAK**



FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT DID YOU.

HITTING ME WITH A SHEATHED SWORD?! MORE THAN THAT--! SOME KIND OF ENERGY FIELD...

~UNNGNH~



CRIPES! THAT BACKHAND SWIPE THREW ME OFF THE ROOF!

GOTTA GRAB FOR THAT WINDOW LEDGE!



BINGO!

ALL I NEED IS A MINUTE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, AND THEN I'LL--



YOU DON'T HAVE THAT MINUTE, AMERICAN.

HUH?!



IN FACT, YOU HAVE NO ~~THING~~ LEFT AT ALL!

**WAAAAH**



IMPACT-- FELT LIKE IT PULVERIZED EVERY BONE IN... MY BODY! HE HIT ME TOO FAST, TOO HARD!

I-- I'M BLACKING OUT...

HECK... I DON'T EVEN KNOW... WHO... HE... ISSSSSS...



SO THIS IS THE  
CELEBRATED SPIDER-  
MAN! HA! I'VE  
FACED DEADLIER  
OPPONENTS IN THE  
TRAINING ARENAS  
OF MY YOUTH!

BUT YOU FOUGHT  
WITH COURAGE,  
AMERICAN, I'LL GIVE  
YOU THAT. IT'S A  
PITY THAT COURAGE  
MEANS NOTHING  
AGAINST THE MARTIAL  
ARTS SKILL AND THE  
RAW POWER OF...

...THE  
**SILVER  
SAMURAI!**

WERE THESE MORE  
HONORABLE TIMES,  
WARRIOR, YOUR COURAGE  
WOULD HAVE EARNED  
YOU YOUR LIFE... BUT  
THOSE TIMES ARE LONG  
DEAD.

AND BECAUSE NONE  
MUST KNOW OF MY  
PRESENCE IN THIS CITY,  
YOU MUST DIE AS WELL!



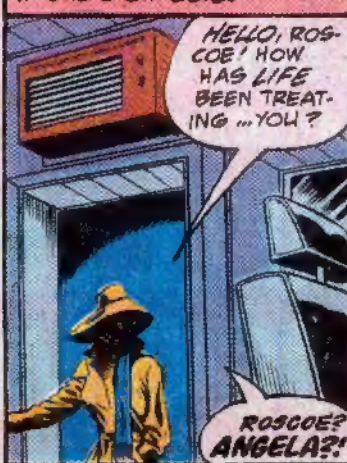


ON THAT NOTE, WE CUT BACK IN TIME A FEW MINUTES, AND SHIFT OUR SCENE DOWNTOWN.



...TO A CERTAIN EAST-SIDE BARBER-SHOP.

AND A CERTAIN WOMAN, WHO PUSHES OPEN THE WEATHER-BEATEN DOOR AS IF SHE'S EXPECTED.



HELLO, ROSCOE! HOW HAS LIFE BEEN TREATING ...YOU?

ROSCOE? ANGELA?!

IS ANYBODY HERE?!

A QUICK THOROUGH SEARCH GIVES THE WOMAN HER ANSWER: THE SHOP IS DESERTED--



--NOT LATHER IN THE SHAVING BOWLS, ELECTRIC CLIPPERS RUNNING--

WHATEVER'S HAPPENED HERE MUST HAVE HAPPENED JUST MINUTES AGO. I'D BETTER GET BELOW AND SEE IF I CAN HELP!



GOOD THING NICK FURY GAVE ME THE ELEVATOR CHAIR'S MANUAL OVER-RIDE SEQUENCE...

...OTHERWISE, I'D BE STUCK UP ON GROUND LEVEL, NO USE TO ANYONE.



ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN, WHAT'S--

--GOING ON HERE?



THE RECEPTION AREA'S AS EMPTY AS THE BARBER-SHOP!

WHICH MEANS THE BLACK WIDOW'S HELP IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER!

BECAUSE THESE DISAPPEARANCES CAN ONLY BE THE RESULT OF--



...ENEMY ACTION!



IF SO, THEN IT WAS A STRANGE SORT OF ATTACK, ONE THAT OCCURED SO QUICKLY, SO COMPLETELY THAT NOBODY HAD TIME TO RESIST!

IT'S EERIE--ALMOST FRIGHTENING--HOW VAST AND SILENT THE HEAD-QUARTERS IS WHEN YOU'RE ABOVE. AND THE WIDOW IS ALONE, AS HER SEARCH OF THE COMPLEX SOON TELLS HER.

HERE, TOO, THERE'S NOT FOOD, HALF-SMOKED CIGARETTES ON MESS TABLES AND COMPUTER CONSOLES...

"...THOSE SAME CONSOLES REGISTERING 'SITUATION NORMAL / CONDITION GREEN.' IT'S AS IF EVERY-ONE DISAPPEARED SUDDENLY, ONLY AN INSTANT BEFORE THE WIDOW ARRIVED.

THE MARIE CÉLESTE MYSTERY, ALL OVER AGAIN-- ONLY THIS TIME IT'S THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN INSTEAD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC...

I'VE GOT TO GET HOLD OF FURY. ASSUMING HE WASN'T HERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.

I'D BETTER DO IT IN PERSON, TOO. THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM MAY BE BUGGED.

IT WAS FURY'S CALL THAT BROUGHT ME BACK TO NEW YORK IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HE WOULDN'T GO INTO DETAILS, BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...

...I'D SWEAR HE SOUNDED... SCARED.

WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THIS WILL TURN INTO NO MORE THAN AN ELABORATE APRIL FOOL JOKE DONE TWO MONTHS EARLY.

SURE IT WILL-- AND NATASHA ALANOVNA ROMANOFF WILL TURN INTO TSARINA OF ALL THE RUSSIANS.

WAIT! THAT FLASH-- AN ENERGY FLARE! IT'S CLOSE BY! TOO CLOSE TO IGNORE!





IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS SHIELD NIGHTMARE.

THE CHAMPIONS' AIRCAR WILL HAVE ME THERE IN JUST A FEW SECONDS.



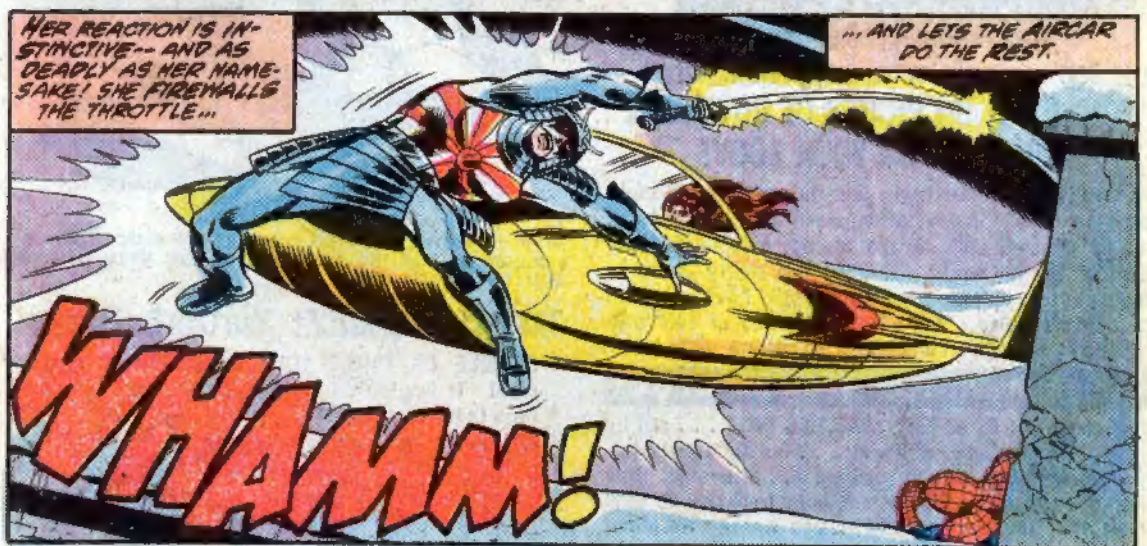
BUT IN THOSE SECONDS, WIDOW, A SENTENCE OF DEATH CAN BE PRONOUNCED...

...THE EXECUTIONER IN THE ACT OF CARRYING IT OUT!



THAT MAN WITH THE SWORD--HE'S THE SILVER SAMURAI!

ABOUT TO MURDER SPIDER-MAN!



HER REACTION IS INSTINCTIVE-- AND AS DEADLY AS HER NAME-- SHE FIREWALLS THE THROTTLE...

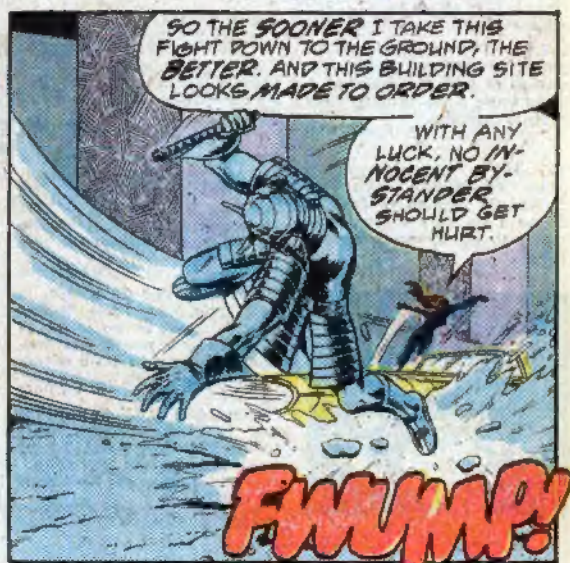
... AND LETS THE AIRCAR DO THE REST.

**WHAMM!**



BLAST! THE SAMURAI'S ARMOR ABSORBED MOST OF THE IMPACT! HE'S JUST STUNNED-- AND ONCE HE RECOVERS, HIS ENERGY SWORD CAN CUT THE CAR TO PIECES.

AS LONG AS I STAY AIRBORNE, I'M AT HIS MERCY.



SO THE SOONER I TAKE THIS FIGHT DOWN TO THE GROUND, THE BETTER. AND THIS BUILDING SITE LOOKS MADE TO ORDER.

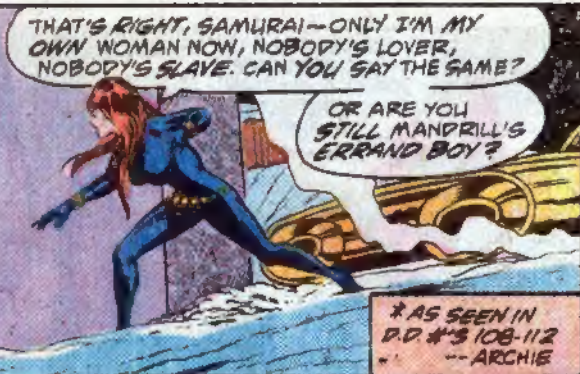
WITH ANY LUCK, NO INNOCENT BY-STANDER SHOULD GET HURT.

**FWUMP!**





YOU! DAREDEVIL'S LOVER-- THE WOMAN MANDRILL SNARED IN HIS HYPNOTIC SPELL AND MADE HIS SLAVE! \*



THAT'S RIGHT, SAMURAI-- ONLY I'M MY OWN WOMAN NOW, NOBODY'S LOVER, NOBODY'S SLAVE. CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?

OR ARE YOU STILL MANDRILL'S ERRAND BOY?

\* AS SEEN IN D.D. #'S 108-112  
-- ARCHIE

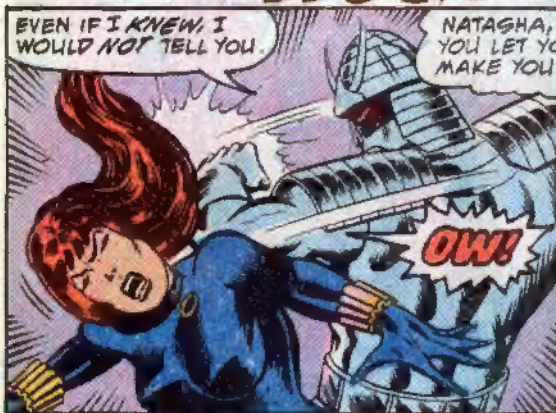


SILENCE, WITCH! I SERVED MANDRILL IN PAYMENT OF AN ANCIENT DEBT!

AND NOW YOU'RE PAID UP? I DON'T BELIEVE IT, SAMURAI!

WHERE IS HE, MISTER? WHERE'S MANDRILL?

**THUK!**



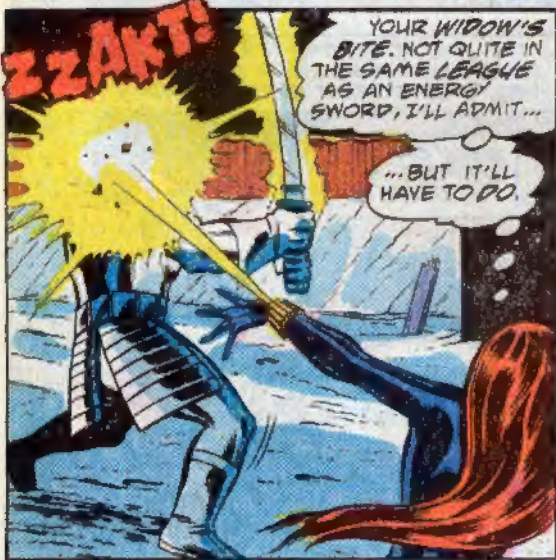
EVEN IF I KNEW, I WOULD NOT TELL YOU.

NATASHA, YOU FOOL! YOU LET YOUR ANGER MAKE YOU CARELESS!

**OW!**



REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING, WOMAN! HE MAY HAVE THE EDGE IN SIZE AND RAW POWER BUT YOU HAVE YOUR SPEED, YOUR SKILL.



YOUR WIDOW'S BITE. NOT QUITE IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS AN ENERGY SWORD, I'LL ADMIT...

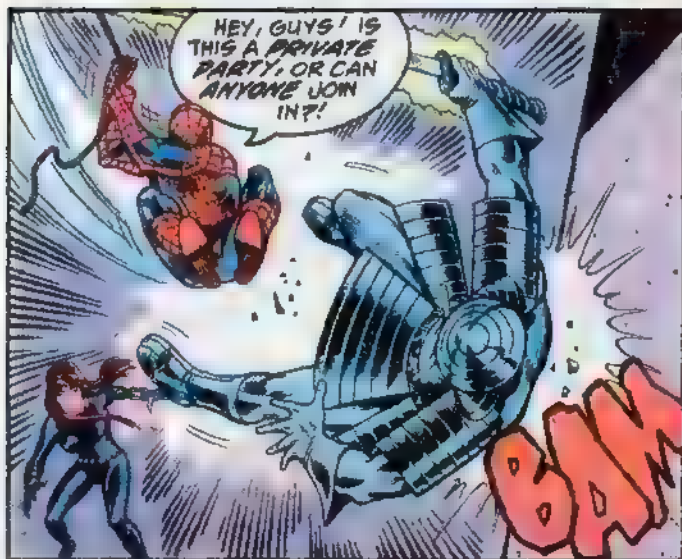
...BUT IT'LL HAVE TO DO.



WRONG, NATASHA. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, WIDOW! LOOKS LIKE THEY WON'T DO...

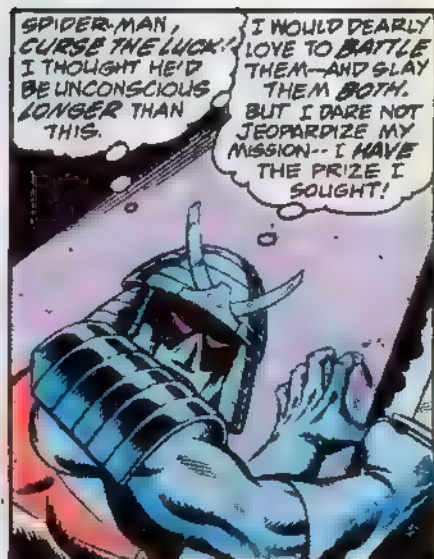
I DEFEATED DAREDEVIL, REMEMBER? KILLING YOU WILL BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.





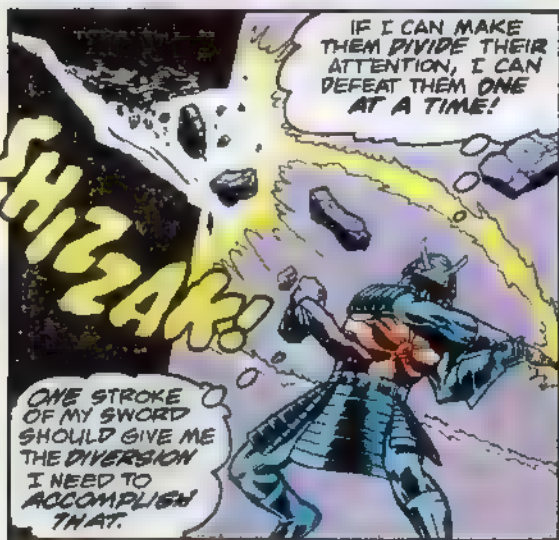
HEY, GUYS! IS THIS A PRIVATE PARTY, OR CAN ANYONE JOIN IN?!

BAW



SPIDER-MAN, CURSE THE LUCK! I THOUGHT HE'D BE UNCONSCIOUS LONGER THAN THIS.

I WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO BATTLE THEM--AND SLAY THEM BOTH. BUT I DARE NOT JEOPARDIZE MY MISSION--I HAVE THE PRIZE I SOUGHT!



IF I CAN MAKE THEM DIVIDE THEIR ATTENTION, I CAN DEFEAT THEM ONE AT A TIME!

SHIZAK!

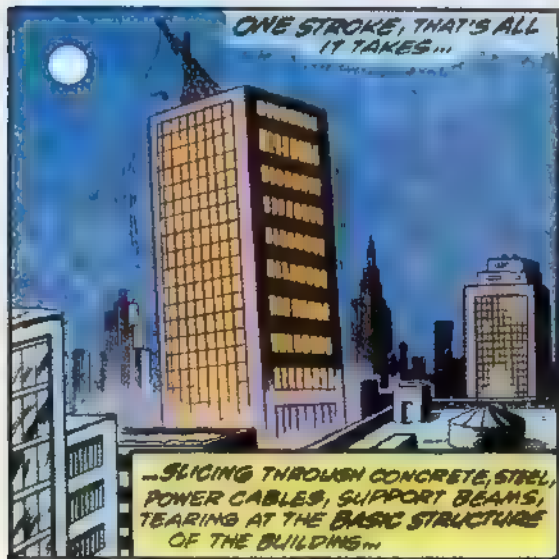
ONE STROKE OF MY SWORD SHOULD GIVE ME THE DIVERSION I NEED TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.



SPIDER-MAN! HE'S CUTTING THROUGH THE BUILDING'S MAIN UTILITY CORE!

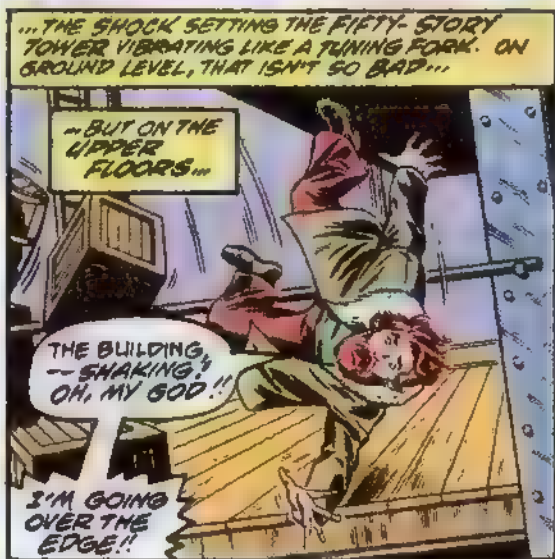
TELL ME ABOUT IT, WIDOW--

--AND THEN TELL ME HOW WE STOP HIM!



ONE STROKE, THAT'S ALL IT TAKES...

--SLICING THROUGH CONCRETE, STEEL, POWER CABLES, SUPPORT BEAMS, TEARING AT THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE BUILDING...



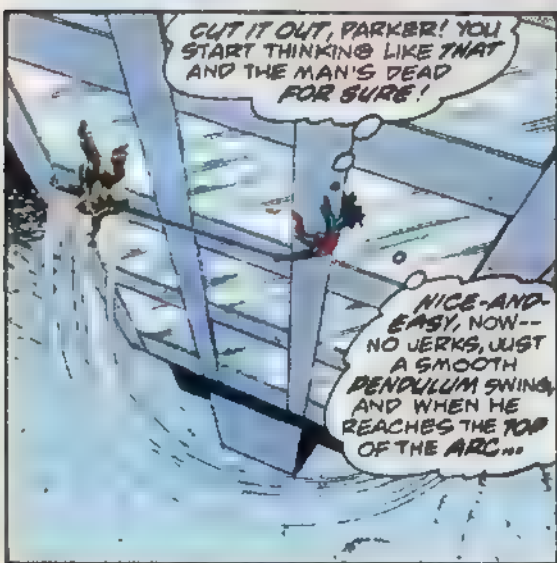
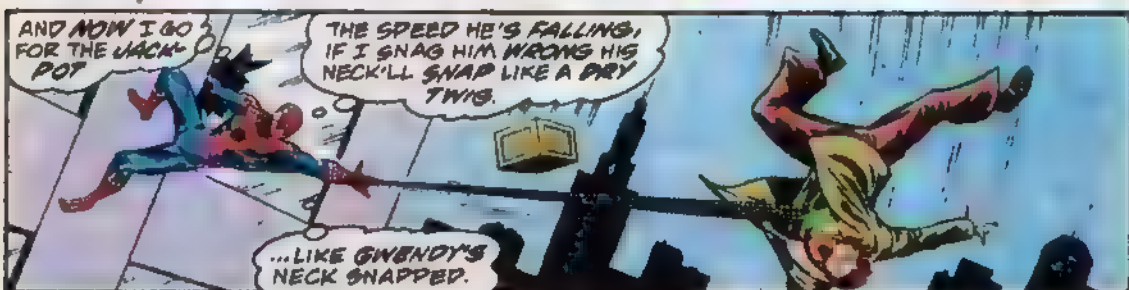
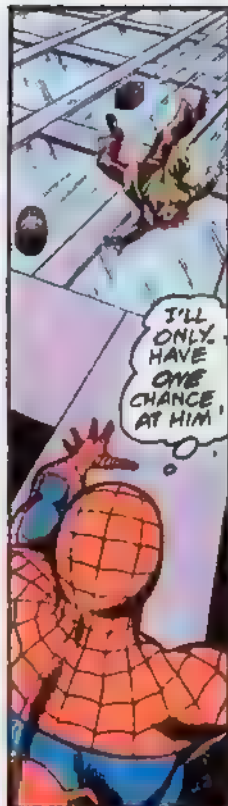
...THE SHOCK SETTING THE FIFTY-STORY TOWER VIBRATING LIKE A TUNING FORK. ON GROUND LEVEL, THAT ISN'T SO BAD...

...BUT ON THE UPPER FLOORS...

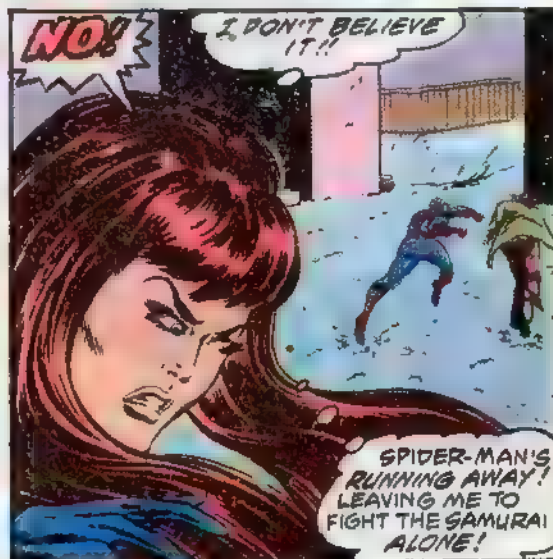
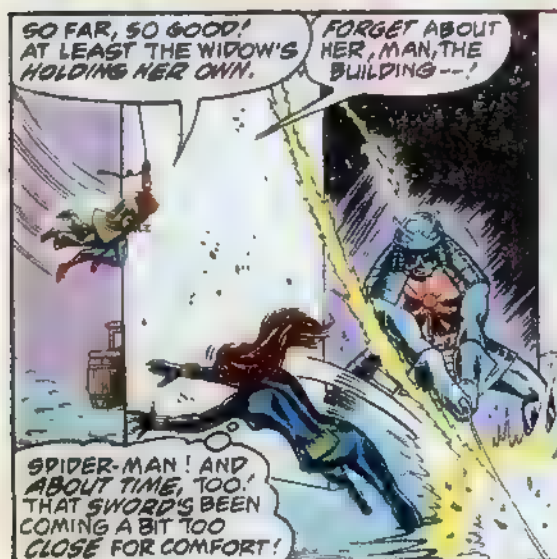
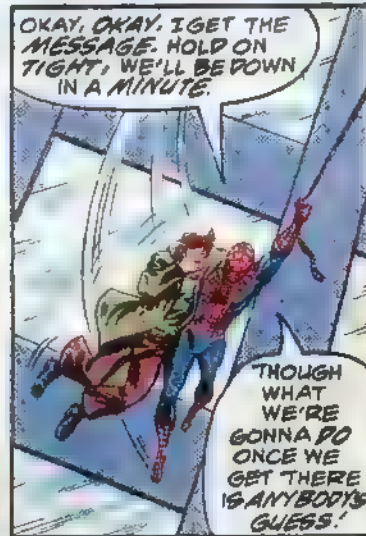
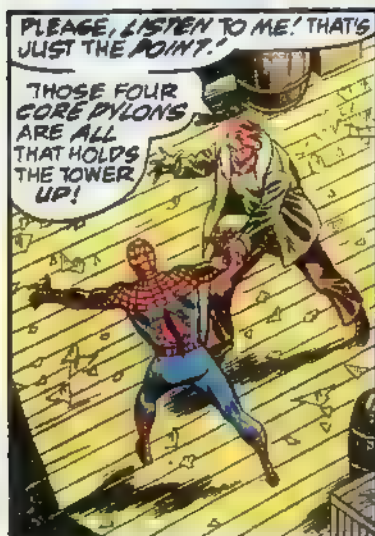
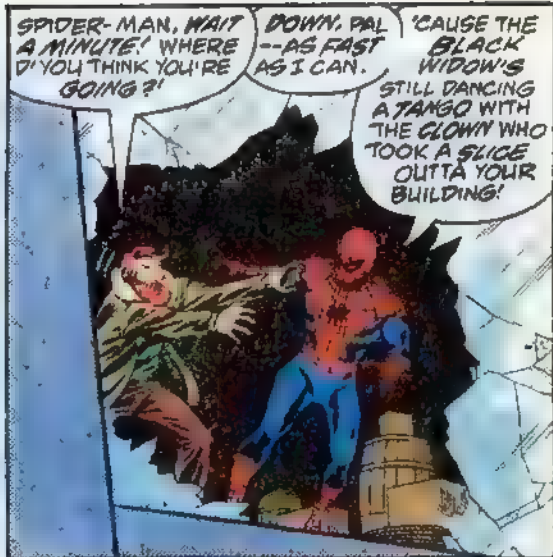
THE BUILDING--SHAKING! OH, MY GOD!!

I'M GOING OVER THE EDGE!!











YOU'RE ONLY PARTLY RIGHT, WIDOW...

THE DAMAGE IS WORSE THAN I IMAGINED! WE'VE GOT TO EVACUATE THE AREA! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN PREVENT TOTAL COLLAPSE!

WHHE MIND... IF I... TRY?

THAT BEAM-- IT WEIGHS TONS! BUT--

YEAH. I KNOW!

UFF!?

THOW

THERE! IT'S WEDGED IN UNDER THE BASE FLOOR, RIGHT UP AGAINST THE WEAKENED PYLON! THAT OUGHTTA BRACE IT! WHEW?

I KNEW IT! ONE GIRDER CAN'T TAKE THAT INCREDIBLE STRAIN!

RRRK!

YOU... WANT MORE?!

UNNGH!

I GUESS THERE'S NO TIME TO CALL IRON MAN--

--BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP THIS UP! HOW MANY DO WE NEED?

I ESTIMATE-- THIRTY! THIRTY-FIVE TO BE SAFE! BUT HURRY! THE TOWER COULD FALL ANY MINUTE!

THWIP!

THIRTY--?

MY BACK'S KILLING ME ALREADY! MY ARMS--! BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING! IF FIFTY-SOME STORIES OF BUILDING FALLS OVER HERE IN MID-TOWN--!

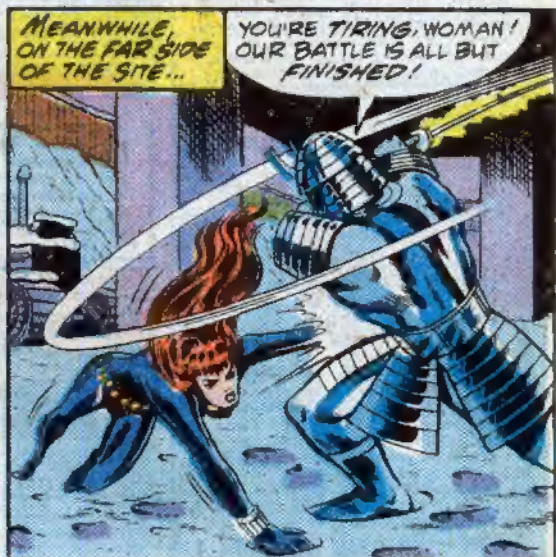
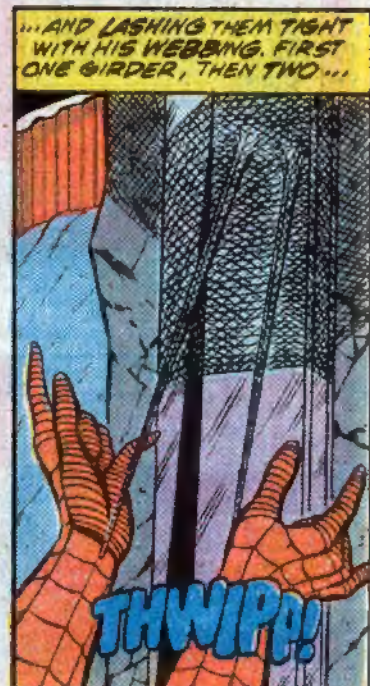
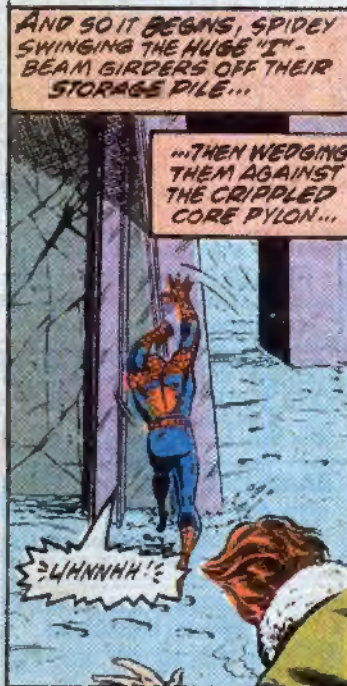
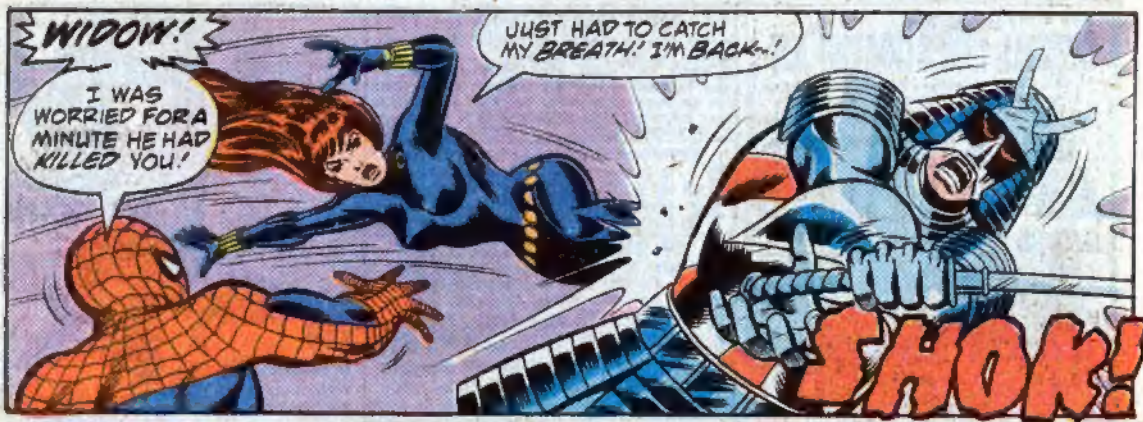
UH-OH! SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING BEHIND ME--

--THE SAMURAI!

WHAT THE HECK DO I DO NOW? IF I WASTE TIME WITH HIM, THERE COULD BE A DISASTER!

FOOL! YOUR WEBBING IS USELESS AGAINST THE POWER OF MY SWORD!









BUT IT'S NOT FAR FROM THE TRUTH! HE'S GOT ME ON THE DEFENSIVE, PUSHING ME HARD...

...AND SPIDER-MAN'S STILL WORKING ON THE BUILDING...



HER RANDOM THOUGHT DISTRACTS HER FOR ONLY A MOMENT--THE SILVER SAMURAI STRIKES...

HAI-YANHH!

AARRGH!



ENERGY BACKLASH FROM HIS SWORD... JANGLED MY NERVOUS SYSTEM... LIKE ELECTROCUTION.

AND NOW THE SAMURAI'S... BACKED ME INTO A CORNER... GOT TO CLEAR MY HEAD! FEEL SO WOOLY!



SPIDER-MAN, YOU'VE DONE IT! THE BRACE IS SOLID! THE BUILDING'S SAFE!

A-HUH?  
YOU MEAN I'M... FINISHED ??? FAR... OUT.



BUT NOW YOU'D BETTER SPLIT... FAST! THE SAMURAI'S STILL LOOSE.



ONE MORE STROKE WILL FINISH YOU, WOMAN!

PREPARE TO DIE!



NOT IF YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN HAS ANYTHING TO--

--SAY ABOUT IT...

THP



OUT OF FLUID! BUT  
... I'VE GOT TO DO  
SOMETHING...

SO TIRED!  
ARMS... LIKE  
LEAD! EVERY  
MOVE HURTS!

AHHH-H!

THERE'S YOUR  
CHANCE WIDOW!  
GET OUT OF  
THERE!

UNNGHHH!

BANG!

YOU'LL GO NOWHERE,  
WOMAN!

WIDOW!

AND NOW, FOOL,  
IT'S YOUR  
TURN.

THE SILVER SAMURAI IS  
MORE THAN A MATCH FOR  
ANY SUPER-HERO--ESPE-  
CIALY ONE WHO'S DEAD  
ON HIS FEET FROM  
FATIGUE.

I'VE  
GOT NEWS  
FOR YOU,  
PAL--IF  
I'M  
DEAD...

KRAAL

... THEN I'M ONE HECKUVA  
LIVELY CORPSE--

C'MON, BIG  
FELLA! WHAT'S  
A MATTER? CAN'T  
YOU HIT A MOVING  
TARGET? I MEAN,  
I'M ONLY USING MY  
SPIDER-SPEED--!

--AND IT'S KILLING  
ME! BUT... IF I CAN  
GET IN ONE GOOD SHOT!

IS BELTING  
WOMEN FROM  
BEHIND THE  
BEST YOU  
CAN DO?!

BROW!





**NEXT** AND SO, WE'RE LEFT WITH MYSTERIES, THE WIDOW'S TO BE CLEARED UP IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE CHAMPIONS. AS FOR SPIDEY'S... PERHAPS IT'LL BE SOLVED WHEN HE AND GHOST RIDER FACE--

**"PANIC on PIER" ONE!**